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EDITORIAL

Plato tells us that institutions should beware when all men speak well of them. In the sixth year of the Society's existence it may be proper to begin a search for new ways of achieving the aims which the members set themselves in the first year. One additional way in which the preservation and study of dialect might be fostered is by an extension of the Society's meetings to other Lancashire towns than Manchester and Liverpool. At the moment the difficulties of such a step are almost as great as those which were encountered in founding the Lancashire Dialect Society and placing it, and its Journal, on a firm footing, and they present a challenge to all members of the Society who believe that it has no more to do than maintain its present momentum. Until such expansion is possible the Journal must remain the principal channel for conveying the details of our meetings and other activities to members. Professor Potter's article 'Linguistic Geography' contains the substance of a lecture which has been delivered to members in Liverpool and Manchester. It is a testimony to Professor Potter's eagerness to serve the Society that he has been willing to add to his labours on our behalf by preparing his lecture for publication.

Another way in which we can assist the cause of dialect is by keeping alive the traditions of dialect literature. One of these traditions is the use of local legend as a subject for dialect prose and poetry. The existence of such a tradition goes back to the date of the earliest ballads, which are themselves dialect poetry of this kind. The 'Two Northern Ghost Stories' printed in this issue exemplify this tradition well. For permission to print one of these we are indebted to our President, whose interest in the Society has always been a very active one. It is also pleasant to record that our Chairman, Mr. William Fox, is still busily engaged upon a study of dialect which has been lifelong.

On a more personal level members will take pleasure in wishing long and happy retirement to Sir John Stopford and Sir James Myers, Patrons of the Society, after many years of service in other spheres of activity.

LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY

By SIMEON POTTER, M.A., B.Litt., Ph.D.,
Baines Professor of English, University of Liverpool.

Linguistic geography, as a descriptive science in the modern sense, began with the work of Georg Wenker, Gaston Paris and Alexander John Ellis in the last century, but it was not unknown to the Greeks. To a far-travelled man like Herodotus it was indeed well known. The versatile Herodotus began his career as a student of geography and ethnography, and he then continued it as an historian—the "father of history," as Cicero affectionately called him. Now, although Herodotus became an ardent admirer of Pericles, and although he was numbered among the friends of Socrates, he did not write his history books in the standard speech of Athens, that is, in Attic Greek. He used Ionic, a later form of the dialect of Homer and Hesiod. Even the great tragedians, Aeschylus, Euripides and Sophocles, used standard Attic in their main arguments, but Doric Greek, the traditional variety of speech for lyric poetry, in their choruses. In this and other ways, it seems to me, the Hellenic attitude to dialect was rational and at the same time liberal. Later, it is true, when the Greek world was made one by Alexander the Great and his successors, the independent city-states were superseded and a common speech or *koine dialektos* was evolved for purposes of administration. In ancient Greece, however, as in medieval England, the notion that speech should be uniform, or that one class of utterance might be superior or preferable to another, found no place in the minds of men. Any writer of English, even one who intended to address his words to the whole nation, used his own regional dialect as a matter of course. That dialect might be highly conventionalized, as in the homiletic prose of MS. Bodley 34 — of *Sawles Warde*, *Hali Meidhad* and the other hagiographic writings of the *Katerine* group, which probably come to us from thirteenth-century Herefordshire. In some ways we know more about the linguistic geography of England in the thirteenth century than in, say, the sixteenth; and year by year our knowledge is enlarged and strengthened as new fascicles appear of the Middle English Dictionary by Hans Kurath and Sherman Kuhn of Ann Arbor. We know more because, as I have said, men expressed themselves spontaneously in their own variety of speech. Robert Mannyng, for instance, placed it on record that he was born at Brunne, now Bourne by Market Deeping in the Kesteven division of Lincolnshire, in 1260, and that he wrote his metrical treatise on the handling or treatment of sins in the year of grace "a thousand and three hundred and three." *Havelok*, the liveliest

and most vigorous of the popular romances, which Mannyng himself had certainly read, had been written at Grimsby just sixty miles to the north in the dialect of the Lindsey division of Lincolnshire. The Harley Lyrics were probably written in the Abbey of Leominster in North Herefordshire only a few years later. We may reasonably conclude, notwithstanding dissentient voices, that *Sir Gawayn and the Green Knight*, the best of the aristocratic romances, and *Pearl*, that sonnet sequence of astounding ingenuity, were composed in or near South Lancashire, somewhere, I like to imagine, between Mersey and Ribble. Rarely, in fact, can we pinpoint the precise spot where a particular manuscript was written, as we can for the Ireland manuscript, containing stories of King Arthur, which was actually penned at Hale Hall, now so sadly dilapidated, exposing its gaunt walls to the open sky near the north shore of the Mersey only five miles upstream from Liverpool.

It is surely not surprising to find that many of the expressions occurring in the Ireland manuscript just mentioned, in *Sir Gawayn* and *Pearl*, in *Cleanness* and *Patience*, in *The Gest Historiale of the Destruction of Troy* and *The Wars of Alexander*, may still be heard in the Merseyside village of Hale and elsewhere among lowly folk in the County Palatine of Lancaster. A modern dialect may well prove to be the best of all linguistic commentaries on some obscure reading in an ancient text. The key to the elucidation of a dark or puzzling passage may sometimes be found not on library shelves but in windswept fields, where *nobbut a tuthry* has not yet been ousted by *only a few*.

As I linger over the pages of Gillieron's Linguistic Atlas of France, as I do year by year with those students who follow with me a course of study on the varieties of Modern English, I picture to myself what the future Linguistic Atlas of England will look like and what interesting information it will record relating more particularly to Lancashire and the other five northern counties. In some ways this *Atlas Linguistique de la France* (Paris, 1902-1910) may be regarded as the first major scientific achievement in its own field. It had been previously conceived by that eminent teacher, Bruno Paulin Gaston Paris, mentioned above, who excelled in so many domains, in Romance philology no less than in French medieval literature. It was in the year 1888, when the first part of the *Oxford English Dictionary* was nearing completion — *Murray's Dictionary* as everyone then called it—and when Ellis was preparing the fifth volume of his *Early English Pronunciation* for publication by the Early English Text Society, that Paris formulated those principles of linguistic geography which Gillieron practised with such conspicuous success in collaboration with

one, and only one, indefatigable field-worker named Edmond Edmont, a grocer from Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise in Pas-de-Calais. This energetic shopkeeper happened to be endowed with sound natural intelligence and with an extraordinary aptitude for apprehending phonetic nuances and for transcribing them in accurate notation. He spent nearly four and a half years of his life from August, 1897, to December, 1901, recording the answers to his master's carefully prepared 1920 questions in 638 selected places, not only in France but also in French-speaking Belgium and Switzerland.

Gillieron and Edmont's brilliant example was soon followed by his Swiss pupils, Karl Jaberg of Berne and Jakob Jud of Zurich, who produced an atlas of Italy and Southern Switzerland (1928-40), and by other enthusiasts who eventually did the same for Catalan, Roumanian and Flemish. Across the Atlantic Hans Kurath, assisted by Miles L. Hanley and Bernard Bloch, issued an atlas of New England (1939-43) as the first unit in a series of sectional atlases which will go to form *The Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada*, sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies.

When Walter William Skeat founded the English Dialect Society in 1873, he was not so geographically minded, but he set out with the threefold intention of collecting words with divergent pronunciation, recording technical terms and proverbs, and transcribing specimens of dialect texts. That was one of the reasons why the Society's activities resulted in the production of a dictionary and not an atlas. Joseph Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary* (1896-1905) presented "the complete vocabulary of all dialect words still in use or known to have been in use during the last two hundred years." As we move about the Lancashire countryside, we still hear people talk about *honeybees* or *beeflies*, *emmets* or *pismires*, and *arains* or *attercops*. Needless to say, all these are duly recorded by Wright. In his *Religio Medici* Sir Thomas Browne discoursed knowingly on "the wisdom of Bees, Annts and Spiders" and, if anyone really feels like "fleeting the time carelessly" with complete mental relaxation, let him idle away a summer hour watching the activities of these industrious insects. Now *bee* comes from Common Germanic *bini* "trembler, quiverer." The present form of the word being so short, people tend to say *honey-bee* or *bee-fly* just to give it greater body and distinctness. Similarly in French, Latin *apis* has become *ep*, *ef*, *es* and *e* in various dialects, as we see from the third map in Gillieron's Atlas. French speakers have therefore likewise resorted to "therapeutic devices" to give these inherited forms greater body and distinctness either by using *abeille* from the Latin diminutive or pet-form *apicula* "dear little bee" or by calling it *mouche-a-miel* "honey-fly." As for

emmet, it is just a by-form of standard *ant*, showing, in fact, a more straightforward development from Common Germanic *a-maitjo* "cutter or biter off," Old English *aemette*, this hymenopterous insect being so called from the devastating use it makes of its sharp mandibles. The form *mire* probably comes into our dialect from Scandinavian and the first component, *pis-*, as in *pismire*, *pissamer* and *pissamoor*, obviously relates to the urinous stench of an anthill. In the Geneva Bible of 1560, the only version known to Shakespeare, the sluggard is told in Proverbs vi 6 to "go to the pismire" for wisdom and guidance. *Arain* and *attercop* are both ancient names for the *spider* or *spinner*, the former from French (from Latin *aranea*) and the latter from Old English *attor-coppe* "poison-head" or, just conceivably, "poison-cup." A *cobweb* is a *copweb*, a web spun by an *attercop*. My impression is that *arain* is more widespread than *attercop* in our county, but there may still be many villages and farmsteads where both names are in common use. The spider, by the way, is not notably poisonous, but it seems to be the only creature in the whole realm of nature, apart, of course, from *homo sapiens*, that deliberately sets a *trap* for another. It lives at high altitudes. It was, indeed, the only living thing found by Sir Edmund Hillary on the very top of Mount Everest. At the same time it descends into the deepest wells and mines.

Lancastrian *cleg* "gad-fly" is Norse, but *clock* "beetle" is still an unsolved puzzle, although it was mentioned by John Ray in the seventeenth century. *Dunnock* "hedge-sparrow" and *ruddock* "robin" are so named from the adjectives of colour, *dun* "dull greyish brown" and *rud* "ruddy, red," to which the diminutive and hypocoristic suffix *-ock* has been added. An *easing-sparrow* is a house sparrow that builds its nest under the *easing*, *eavesing* or *eaves;* a *spink* is a chaffinch, so called, I would guess, from its chirp; a *shepster* is a *sheep stare* or *starling* which habitually perches on the backs of sheep in order to feed on the ticks.

How many folk today, I wonder, refer to the gloaming or twilight as the *half-leet*? We certainly hear also *eawl-leet* "the dim light in which owls go abroad" and *tween-leet*. The most picturesque term, perhaps, is *edge-o'-dark*. *Tween-leet* is most interesting because it is the regular descendant of *tweone-leoht*, recorded once only in Wright-Wulker's *Old English Vocabularies*, and because it may help to explain the precise significance of the *twi-* prefix in *twilight* which still baffles etymologists. Its form gives no difficulty: it is the normal combining variant of *two-*. But does this *twi-* mean "double, uncertain, indistinct" or "double, having the nature of two things, standing between daylight and darkness"? The Oxford Dictionary leaves the question unanswered, referring the reader to Middle

High German *zwischenliecht* "tween-light," and Modern Low German *twedunkern* "twi-dark."

To the linguistic geographer our county presents many features of great interest, but none perhaps of greater general interest than the River Ribble as a stable dialect boundary. Nearly thirteen centuries ago Theodore of Tarsus, seventh Archbishop of Canterbury (A.D. 658-690), who followed tribal frontiers in the organisation of his dioceses, made it the boundary between the episcopal sees of Lichfield and York. It marked the northern limit of Mercian speech. Immediately north of it lay a sparsely inhabited no-man's-land, a broad belt or band extending from the Ribble to the Lune and separating the Anglians of Mercia from the Celts of Cumberland and Westmorland. Cumberland was the land of the *Cymry* or "fellow-countrymen" and Westmorland that of the *Westmoringas* or "men living west of the Yorkshire moors." The Roman road to the north from Mamucium (Manchester) to Carlisle (Luguvallium) crossed the Ribble at Bremetennacum (Ribchester), the variant forms of whose name remind us that it stands on a speech boundary. Ribchester is the Roman fort or *castra* on the Ribble and its second component has oscillated between *-caster* (Domesday Book *Ribelcastre*) and *-chester*. The initial consonant sound of Old English *caester* and *ceaster* showed various degrees of palatalisation, whether standing alone as in *Caister* and *Chester* or forming a first component as in *Casterton* and *Chesterton*, or forming a second component as in *Lancaster* and *Manchester*. Ribchester is placed roughly halfway between Lancaster "Roman fort on the River Lune" and Manchester "fort on the site of Celtic Mamucion" and therefore this interesting alternation between *-caster* and *-chester* is just what we should expect. The modern world, however, with its Ordnance Survey maps and its telephone directories, demands permanent elimination of variants and it so happens that *Ribchester* has become the accepted form.

More recently *Bamber Brig*, another interesting borderline name, has been normalised to *Bridge*. It denotes the bridge over the River Lostock, a tributary of the Yarrow, itself a branch of the Douglas which eventually joins the Ribble some miles downstream near its estuary. In their *Glossary of the Lancashire Dialect* of 1875, John Nodal and George Milner pointed out that Bamber was the most southerly *brig* in the county. Now this recent alternation between voiced plosive and affricate in the final sounds of *brig*: *bridge* is comparable with that more ancient vacillation between voiceless plosive and affricate in the initial sounds of *caster*: *chester*. The name *Bamber*, older *Bymbrig*, signifies "brig of a man called Bimme." In present-day *Bamber Bridge*, therefore, Scandinavian *brig* has been twice submerged.

Only seven miles or so upstream from Ribchester the river becomes *hippinable* and may be crossed by *hipping-stones*. To *hip* is to leap on one leg like a child playing the game of hop-scotch or *hippy-beds*: to *hop* is to jump on two legs together like a bird. Both verbs derive from Common Germanic *hupp-*, the first by the addition of the suffix *-jan* which effects mutation (*huppjan*, *hyppjan*, Old English **hyppan*, cf. German *hupfen*), and the second by the addition of *-ojan* which produces no mutation and cannot prevent the *u*-sound from falling to *o* (*huppojan*, *hoppojan*, Old English *hoppian*, cf. German *hopfen*). When the Green Knight came down to the stream to keep tryst with Sir Gawain in the last canto of the famous medieval romance of that name already mentioned, he "hypped over on hys ax" (l.2232) and so crossed the water dry-shod. The phonological relationship between Lancastrian *hip* and Standard English *hop* is the same as that between *knit* and *knot*, *vixen* and *fox*, and *shippen* and *shop*. We may think of all these things as we gaily lope o'er the beck by the Brungerley Hipping-stones from Clitherwood into the parish of Waddington in the West Riding and, if we are well versed in the linguistic geography of this region, we may think of all the isoglasses we are passing over at the same time.

We have just been commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Joseph Wright and I should like to bring this essay to a close by paying lowly homage to the memory of that very great man and to the faith that was in him. He achieved scholarship and learning by the hard way. He eventually wrote his books on Greek and Gothic, on Old High German and Old English, but in the evening of his days, as he rested in his armchair by the fire at Thackley on the Banbury Road in North Oxford and chatted with us undergraduates about this and that, he would sometimes amuse us by passing abruptly in the middle of a sentence from elegant Oxford to broad Yorkshire with a merry twinkle in his eye. Asked on one occasion how many languages he knew, he answered quietly that he had been privileged to work in many tongues, but that he *knew* one language only, namely that of his native hamlet of Windhill in the township of Idle in the parish of Calverley in the West Riding. And he then added (at edge o' dark) that he had indeed written many books, perhaps too many, but that he wished to be remembered for one book above all: *The English Dialect Dictionary*.

NOTES ON SOME LANCASHIRE NICKNAMES

by WILLIAM FOX.

One of the amusing customs of the dialect speaking cotton workers of Blackburn is that of giving nicknames, not only to persons, but also to places, and to the cotton mills in which they are employed.

For instance a Blackburnian is a 'Blegburn Dud Do', a person from the village of Mellor is a 'Mellor Poot' (pullet), a native of Darwen a 'Darren Salmon', of Bolton a 'Bowton Trotter'. An Oldhamer is a 'Roughyed', a person from Middleton is a 'Moonraker', and Prestonians are 'Preaud Prestoners'. If a man comes from Great Harwood he is a 'Snuffy Harroder', if from Bury, a 'Shaker' or a 'Bury Pudding.' If he hails from Eccles he is an 'Eccles Caker!'

The cotton operatives always speak of their place of employment by its nickname. These are some of them: Owd Gants, Wood Hut, Cat Hoyl, Buther Tub, Glory, Twelve Apostles, Plantation, Rhubarb, Stocking Needle, Bangs t'Nation, Thundher and Leetnin, Smut, Desthructer, Throstles' Nest, Eaut Leet, Fissick, Lather Box, Pinch Noggins, Twenty Steps, Lobby, Jubilee, and Stakes.

Miss Jessica Lofthouse, in her book *Lancashire Landscapes* mentions two of these mills:

> "In Blackburn many a cotton mill has a nickname used by the workers referring to the methods by which the mill owner "addled his brass". A barber who put the money he had made into a cotton mill, found the workpeople' had christened it 'The Lather Box' (and so it is known to generations after them). A grocer turned mill-owner in the same way, never forgot his trade origins when his factory was dubbed 'Buther Tub'."

Here are some more of the same kind: 'Twelve Apostles' is a mill started by a group of men who attended the same Chapel, and were said to be rather sanctimonious. 'Pinch Noggins' got its name because its proprietor had been a licenced victualler. 'Physic' or 'Fizzick' is the name given to a mill whose owner was previously a doctor. 'Owd Gants' was so-named because its owner had formerly been a glove maker ('gant' being the local word for a glove). 'Jubilee' is the name given to Florence Mill, near the Skew Brig in Whalley New Road, because it was built in Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, 1887. I am afraid that I cannot give the origins of any other nicknames, and it would be interesting if any of our readers can do so.

TWO NORTHERN GHOST STORIES

The first of the two poems printed below is taken from a nineteenth century broadsheet kindly loaned to the Society by Sir Harold Parkinson. On the reverse of the broadsheet are the words:

Written by Richard John Shields incumbent of Hornby June, 1860. The story told me, Thomas Charnley of Hornby, and also by Richard Thistlethwaite who was born in Hornby, and is a clergyman. Mr. Richard R. Thistlethwaite corrected the dialect and spelling of the verses.

The second poem is based upon a story told to the author by a farmer's wife at Oughtershaw in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

HORNBY PARK MISTRESS AND MARGARET BRACKIN

[The following story is told and believed by some persons in Hornby. The Park Mistress may be supposed to be the ghost of Lady Harrington, who committed murder, three hundred years ago. Margaret Brackin was born in 1745, and died in 1795]

In the days that oud folks tell on still,
Meg Brackin went up Windy Bank;
Shou lated kinlin' on the hill,
Till owr t'Lake Mountains t'sun it sank.

Nat lang at efter t'sun was set,
And shou hed fill'd her brat wi' sticks,
Shou sid aside at t'Park wood yett,
A woman stan'in' mang the wicks.

T'leaves on t'trees, they owm'ered t'land,
And fadin' was the summer light,
When Marget sid that woman stand
Donn'd like a ghoost o' orr i' white.

Marget was fear'd, but spak and ex'd,
"Hey Missis! let me gang wi' ye,
I hope as that ye'll nut be vext,
But it is gitten dark and dree.

T'Park Mistress e'en shin'd o' wi' leet;
Shou whyatly cam te Marget's side;
T'gerss didn't bend underneath her feet;
Shou seem'd in t'air te float and glide.

As soon's shou cam whare Marget stood,
Shou gript a tight houd on her hand;
Shou led her first intul t'Park wood,
Then back and forret o' owrt t'land.

They kept na road, they kept na path,
They went tho' brackins, scrogs, and brair,
Marget shou soon was out of breath,
But t'lady didn't seem te tire.

They baath com down te Wenning's brink,
And Marget's throat was dry wi' dread,
But shou dursn't ex te stop and drink,
Saa forret still that woman led.

Owr shillar and rough staans they trod,
  Intu t'Wenning, then out fra t'stream;
Surlie their walkin' wasn't snod,
  T'way they travell'd was naan saa weam.

Marget lous'd t'strings of her brat,
  And trail'd it gerss and bushes through,
Till deg'd and damp and wet it gat;
  Then suck'd it out for t'cooling dew.

Fra Weaver's Ayr they went up t'wood,
  Now gaai'n straight and then aslant,
They niver stopt, they niver stood,
  But raaced up t'brow saa rough and brant

Marget could niver gradely say
  Whare nesht wi ghoost shou went that neet;
On Windy Bank, when it was day,
  They fun' her liggin' spent wi' freet.

Marget had been stout and throddy
  But t'walk she tuk that summer neet
Left lile fatness on her body;
  At efter shou was thin and leet.

BALLAD OF THE WHITE DOG

Yestreen, when wind wur blustery,
My grannie heard a wail,
"It's t' white dog o' Yockenthwaite
Paddin' ayont Deepdale."

On t'hearth, sheep-curs wur yowlin',
—Baith wur a fair disgrace—
"They hear t'dog o' Yockenthwaite
Huntin' i' Langstroth Chase."

Young bull i' t'byre wur bealin',
Hoofin' up hay an' straw:
"That white dog o' Yockenthwaite
Is noo at Oughtershaw:

"Bolt door an' fasten windows.
Hark ye, yon awesome sound,
Girt white dog o' Yockenthwaite
Belike is t'Devil's hound."

My grannie pulls her plaidie
Aboot her. *"Aye, for sure,*
That white dog o' Yockenthwaite
Mun be an evildoer."

DOROTHY UNA RATCLIFFE

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF CHESHIRE PLACE-NAMES

By GEOFFREY BARNES, M.A.

The study of English place-names has revealed, amongst other things, that the place-names of different counties have an individuality akin to the individuality of the English dialects. This is hardly surprising, for the place-names themselves are, with few exceptions, the coinages or adoptions of dialect speakers in the neighbourhoods in which the places are situated.

In speaking of the place-names of a given county we may refer to two ways in which they may differ from those of any other county. The first of these is in the predominance of certain words for human settlement or natural features, which corresponds to the difference of vocabulary between dialects; and the second is in the form of certain words of general usage in place-names, and corresponds to differences of pronunciation and syntax in dialects.

At the present time no complete survey exists of the place-names of Cheshire, but, as a result of Professor Ekwall's general survey of English place-names in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, and the researches of Dr. F. T. Wainwright, Professor Simeon Potter, and many Cheshire antiquaries, augmented by the recently published *English Place-Name Elements* of Professor A. H. Smith, it is possible to come to certain limited conclusions about the place-names of the county.

In all English place-names the elements which indicate the earliest kind of settlement are those of Roman and Celtic origin. In Cheshire the only element of Roman origin which has come down to modern times is contained in Chester in which the original Celtic name *Deva* has, apparently, been replaced by Latin *castra legionum*, "the camp of the legion," which is the source of the *Legacaestir* and the Celtic *Carlegion* referred to by Bede circa 730, subsequently becoming *Ceaster* by the beginning of the eleventh century. Elements of Celtic origin are more frequent.[1] **Lisso* Brit, *llys* Welsh "a hall, a court," *carrec* OW "a rock" (Liscard); *chwelog* W "winding, having turns" (Wheelock, from the river name); *cryw* W "a ford" (Crewe, Crewe Hall, Crewood); **ceto* Brit "a wood" (combined with OE *leah* "wood" in Cheadle); *gof* W "smith" (with OE *worth* "enclosure" in Gawsworth); *inis* OW "island" (Ince); *lann* OW "enclosure church" (with the Celtic *Tecan*

1. A key to the abbreviations used will be found at the end of this article.

in Landican); **llostog* "beaver, tailed animal," from *llos* W "tail" (giving the name "beaver stream" to the river by which Lostock is situated); *teir* W "bright" (Peover, from the river name); *terfyn* W (Tarvin, from the river name); **verno* "alders" (Werneth). To these should, perhaps, be added *moch-tref* W "pig-farm" as a possible first element of Mottershead, Mottram Andrew, and Mottram in Longdendale; and **lemo* "an elm" if we do not accept Ekwall's derivation of the second element of Audlem from the old forest name *Lime*. In addition the river names of Cheshire are mostly derived from words of Celtic origin, although the etymology of many of them is obscure. The exceptions are the Mersey which, in spite of some unexplained features of the early spellings, appears to come from *gemaeres ea* OE "a boundary river," and the Bollin for which the most suitable explanation so far is either *bol* OE "eel" or dialect *boll* "goblin" with *klynn* OE "torrent."

The greater proportion of Cheshire place-names consists of words of Anglo Saxon origin. The Old English language is usually divided into four dialects: (a) Northumbrian, covering the area between the Firth of Forth and the Humber, (b) Mercian, between the Humber and the Thames, (c) West Saxon, south of the Thames, except Kent and Surrey, (d) Kentish, covering Kent and Surrey—with Northumbrian and Mercian often classed together as Anglian. The county of Cheshire belonged to Mercia in Old English times, and in later mediaeval times to the dialect area known as West Midland which is bounded by the Ribble in the north and the Severn estuary in the south. For ease of treatment the Old English elements in Cheshire place-names may be dealt with as (a) words describing human settlement, social organisation and agriculture, (b) words describing topography, vegetation and animal life.

HUMAN SETTLEMENT

bothl, botl, bold OE, "a dwelling place" (Newbold Astbury, Lea Newbold). The distribution of this element is confined to Northumbria and Mercia, although the word *botl* is recorded in West Saxon. The distribution of *bold* is chiefly Mercian and the two Cheshire names both derive from this particular form.

burh, burg OE, "a fortified place, manor" (Burleydam, Astbury, Bromborough Bunbury, Daresbury, Eddisbury, Henbury, Marbury, Prestbury, Wrenbury, Wybunbury). Different forms of this name are *bir, biri* in EMidl and NCy, SE *beri*, and WMidl *bur, buri*. Cheshire names conform to the WMidl type.

(ge)bur-land OE, "land occupied by peasants" (Burland).

burh-tun, burg-tun OE, "a fort enclosure" (Burton, Burton by Tarvin, Buerton).

cote OE, "a cottage, a shelter" (Wallerscote). This element is more commonly found in WMidl than anywhere else.

hid OE, "a hide of land, an amount of land for the support of one free family and its dependants" (Hyde). This element is not found in NCy and is rare in NMidl.

ham, ingaham OE, "a village," and "village of someone's people" (Alpraham, Davenham, Eastham, Frodsham, Ledsham, Swettenham, Wincham, Altrincham, Kermincham, Tushingham, Warmingham). Use of this element in place-names is probably characteristic of the earliest period of Old English settlement, which may account for the frequency of its occurrence in the south and east and its comparative rarity in the west and north. In *ingaham* the first part derives from OE *ingas* "dwellers in a place." When compounded with a personal name this element has the meaning "the people of," e.g., Warmingham "the *ham* of *Werhmund's* people." Altrincham and Kermincham contain a palatalized form of *ingaham* which may be derived from an old variant of the element (see EPNE i 298).

land OE, "a tract of land or estate" (Wigland, Threapland).

port OE, "town, market town" (Portwood, Davenport, Stockport).

rap OE, "a rope" used in the sense "administrative district" (Rope).

tun, ingtun OE, "an enclosure, a farmstead, a village" (*tun* is found in ninety-four Cheshire place-names, *ingtun* in at least eighteen). In *ingtun* the first element is believed to have the effect of a genitive ending (EPNE i 291) giving the meaning "farm," e.g., Doddington — "Dudda's farm." In the Wirral which was heavily settled by Scandinavians the second element of Barnston, Gayton, Storton and Thurstaston, all of which contain Scandinavian first elements, may be OScand *tun* which is similar in meaning to the OE word.

wic OE, "a dwelling, a building or collection of buildings for a special purposes" (Keckwick, Leftwich, Middlewich, Nantwich, Northwich, Shotwick, Smethwick).

worth, worthig, worthign OE ,"an enclosure" (Worth, Budworth, Bolesworth, Elworth, Gawsworth, Hollingworth, Kenworthy, Carden, Northenden). *Worth* is found generally throughout the country, but the distribution of *worthig* is confined to SW England, and that of *worthign* to the WMidl. Kenworthy appears to be a rare example of

a type of name in which an original *worth* has occasional later spellings in *worthig*. The second elements of Northenden and Carden derive from *worthign*.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND AGRICULTURE

aecer OE, "a plot of arable or cultivated land" (Alsager and frequently in field names).

aeppel-tun OE "an orchard" (Appleton).

bicere, beocere OE, "bee-keeper" (Bickerton).

beretun, bertun, baertun OE, "a barley farm, corn farm," or often "outlying grange, demesne farm" (Barton). Early spellings such as those found in the Cheshire Barton (which is *Barton* 1260, 1265-81, 1281, *Bartun* 1287 and frequently) are from a by-form of the name which is especially common in the NCy.

**burgaesn*, **burgaens* OE, "a burial place" (Broxton). This element appears to be most commonly found in the NCy.

burh-weard OE, "a town guardian" (Burwardsley).

ceorla OE, "a peasant" (Chorley, Chorlton). The distribution of this word is fairly general, but forms in *Chorl-* are chiefly WMidl.

croft OE, "a small enclosed field" (Ravenscroft and frequently in field names).

felging OE (Angl, Kt), *faelging* (Merc), *helging* (WSax), "a piece of ploughed or fallow land (Fallibroome).

fald, falod OE, "a fold, a small enclosure for animals" (Dorfold). This element is rare in the NCy and is commonest in the SE, but it occurs frequently in field names in the Midlands and SCy.

feld OE, "open country, land for pasture" (Dukinfield, Hurdsfield, Macclesfield).

ford OE, "a shallow place in a stream by which a crossing may be made" (fourteen times in Cheshire and frequently in field names). Forms in *-forth* (Handforth and in early spellings of other names, e.g., *Bakeforth* 1538) are fairly frequent in the NCy, and developed in the late Middle Ages.

laes OE, "pasture, meadow land" (Leasowe—dative singular form).

mot, gemot OE, "an assembly" (Mutlow, Mobberley).

preost OE, "a priest" (Preston, Prestbury).

rod, **rodu* OE, "a clearing" (Rode).

staeth OE, "the bank of a river" later "landing stage" (Brimstage, Statham).

stig OE, "a path, a narrow road" (Styal, Gresty, Quisty Birches).

strael OE (WSax), *stret* (Angl, Kt), "a Roman road, a street" (Stretton near Warrington, Stretton near Malpas?). The Cheshire form of this element is derived from the Anglian word.

sundor-land OE, "detached land" (Sinderland).

weg OE, "a path, a road" (Whaley).

weard OE, "watch, ward, protection" (Wardle).

TOPOGRAPHY, VEGETATION AND ANIMAL LIFE

[subdivided into, (i) hills, (ii) valleys and hollows, (iii) lakes and watercourses, (iv) heath and woodland, (v) plants, trees and soil, (vi) animals, birds and fish.]

HILLS

baec OE, "a ridge" (Backford).

beorg OE, "a hill, a mound" (Mobberley).

carr OE, "a rock" (Carden).

clif OE, "a cliff, a bank" (Clive, Clifton, Gatley).

copp, cop OE, "the top of a hill, a summit" (Mow Cop).

clud OE, "a rock, a mass of rock" (Clutton).

dun OE, "a hill" (Bosden, Bowdon, Duddon, Dunham, Farndon, Huntington, Siddington).

ecg OE, "an edge" (Edge).

heafod OE, "a hill, the end of a ridge" (Birkenhead).

hlawe, hlaew OE "a mound, a hill" (Bucklow, Buglawton, Chidlow, Hankelow, Lawton, Mutlow, Stanlowe, Twemlow, Wilmeslow). *Low* is the normal WMidl form of this element.

hoh OE "a heel, a spur of land" (Hough, Hooton, Rainow, Swanscoe).

hyll OE (Angl, WSax), *hell* (Kt), "a hill" (Caughall, Pexall, Harthill, Henhull, Hockenhull, Astle, Coole, Marple, Wardle, Wincle). *Hill* is the regular form of the Anglian word in the NCy and Midlands, while *hull* is a mediaeval development of WSax *hyll*. In addition to the large number of Cheshire names which contain *hull* in their modern forms a number of those names in which the element has been reduced to *-le* contain *hull* in their early spellings (*Asthull*, 1245-50, *Couhull* c1130, *Merphull* 1285, *Wardhull* 1286, *Wynkehull* 1291).

naess OE (Angl, WSax), *ness* (Kt, Mercian), "a headland" (Ness, Neston). Cheshire forms of this element, which

burn OE, "a spring, stream" (Golborne). This element is rare in most counties, and occurs most frequently in the north-east.

ea OE, "a river, stream" (Eaton Hall). This element is commonly found in the Midlands in combination with OE *tun*.

eg OE (Angl, Kt), *ieg*, *ig* (WSax), "an island" (Eaton by Tarporley, Eaton by Davenham, Eaton by Congleton).

fenn OE, "a marsh" (Macefen). The Cheshire word appears to be the normal WMidl form.

hlimme OE, "a stream, a torrent" (Lymm).

**laec(c)*, **laece*, **lec(c)*, **lece* OE, "a stream flowing through boggy land" (Lach Dennis, Latchford, Shocklach). This element is commonest in WMidl areas.

pol, **pull* OE, "a pool, a creek" (*pol*—Poole, Poulton; **pull*—Pulford, *Baretespul* 1282 and frequently, in Acton by Nantwich, Overpool). **Pull* may be related to Welsh *pwll* and occurs mostly in the WMidl.

mere OE, "a pool" (Mere, Marbury, Marton, Bridgemere, Combermere, Delamere, Oakmere, Pickmere).

mersc, *merisc* OE, "watery land, a marsh" (Marston, Kingsmarsh).

twisla OE, "the fork of a river" (Tintwistle).

wella, *well(e)*, OE (Angl, Kt), *wiella*, *wielle*, *will(a)*, *wyll(a)*, *wylle* (WSax), *waella*, *waelle* (Merc), "a stream" (Bradwall, Crabwall, Heswall, Thelwall). All Cheshire names containing this element have the WMidl form, which stems from the Mercian.

HEATH AND WOODLAND

haeth OE (Angl, WSax), *heth* (Kt), "a heath, heather" (original form of Bruera, Hatton, Rudheath).

haethiht OE, "heathy, growing with heather" (Heatley).

hangra, *hongra* OE, "a wood on a steep hillside" (Clayhanger).

mor OE, "a moor," originally barren waste land" (Moore, Moreton).

sceaga, *scaga* OE, "a small wood, a strip of undergrowth or wood" (Barnshaw, Fulshaw). This element is commonest in Lancashire and the West Riding, but less common in the Midlands and SCy.

wudu OE, "a wood, woodland" (Woodchurch, Woodcott, Woodford, Crewood, Wolstanwood). Cheshire names with *wood* or first element all stem from *widu* and earlier form of *wudu*.

ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FISH

**bagga* OE, "a wild animal" possibly "badger" (Baguley).

bridd OE, "a bird" (Bridgemere).

bulluc, -oc OE, "a male calf" (Bulkeley).

calf OE, (Angl), *cealf* (Kt, WSax), "a calf." Calveley in Cheshire contains the Anglian form of this word.

cape OE, "a look-out place" (Capenhurst).

cocc OE, "a cock" (Caughall).

cu OE, "a cow" (Coole).

deor OE, "an animal, a beast" (Dorfold).

duce OE, "a duck" (Dukinfield).

fox OE, "a fox" is compounded with *wist* OE, "lair, den," in Foxwist.

gat OE, "a goat" (Gatley).

heah-deor OE, "a stag, a deer" (Hattersley).

lawerce, laewerce, laferce OE, "a lark" (Larkton).

oxa OE, "anox" (Oxton).

scric OE, "a shrike, a missel thrush" (Shrigley).

In addition to the above, Cheshire place-names contain a number of words which refer to foreign peoples. *Cumbre* OE "the Welsh, the Cumbrian Britons" is contained in Comberbatch and Comber Mere, and is an element confined in usage to the north-west and WMidl where the British population remained until a comparatively later date. *Walh* OE (Angl), *wealh* (WSax), "a foreigner, a Welshman, a serf" (Wallasey), is in more general use, although the element found in Wallasey comes from the Anglian form of the word. *Iri* OScand "Irishman" is found in Irby, which is situated in an area of Scandinavian settlement, and refers to Irishmen who came to England with the Scandinavian settlers.

No account of the elements used in Cheshire place-names would be complete without some reference to the number of Scandinavian words, although space does not permit a detailed survey. There are two distinct waves of Scandinavian invasion in Cheshire; one from Ireland which resulted in a heavy settlement in the Wirral Peninsula, and a second one in the eastern portion of the county, smaller but quite definite, coming from the Midlands. In the place-names of Wirral occur the elements *erg* OWScand, "*a shieling*" (Arrowe); *birkinn* OScand, "birchen" (Birkenhead); *by, byr* OScand, *boer* OWScand, "village, farmstead" (frequently); *ey* OScand, "island" (Caldy); *cnocc* OIr, "a hillock" (Noctorum); *geit* OScand, "goat" (Gayton); *kirkiubyr* OScand, "church town" (West Kirby); *klakkr* OWScand, "a rock" (Claughton); *leir*

may be also that the place-names of Cheshire, when fully surveyed, may have something to contribute to the interesting question of dialect boundaries, a field of study in which the evidence of place-names is, perhaps, insufficiently used.

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A. H. Smith, *English Place-Name Elements*, English Place-Name Society, vols. xxv, xxvi.

F. T. Wainwright, "*Ingimund's Invasion*", English Historical Review, lxiii.

Angl	Anglian dialect of Old English.
Brit	British.
EMidl	East Midland dialect of Middle English.
EPNE	See A. H Smith above.
Kt	Kentish dialect of Old English.
Merc	Mercian dialect of Old English.
NCy	North Country, northern part of England.
NMidl	North Midland, north midland counties of England.
ODan	Old Danish.
OE	Old English (Anglo Saxon).
OScand	Old Scandinavian.
OW	Old Welsh.
OWScand	Old West Scandinavian (especially Old Norwegian and Old Icelandic).
SCy	South Country, southern parts of England.
SE	South Eastern dialect of Middle English.
W	Welsh.
WMidl	West Midland dialect of Middle English.
WSax	West Saxon dialect of Old English.

Words marked with an asterisk are not found in Anglo Saxon literature or early documents, but may be presumed to have existed from other evidence.

"OOUR LAAL SARAH"

Lakeland Dialect

HAROLD DEIGHTON.

Mans! but oour laal Sarah *is* a sharp 'un: she's nobbut fower-an-a-hoaf but she koows a gay sight mair than sum o them that's been at skeal fer a hyal "twelve-munth"!

Me an oour Mary Lizzie thowt it was time that Ah teeuk t'laal clevver-un til t'Skeal-Mistress ta git her neam put on t'Rigester in good time fer startin int "laal-infants" just eftert' Hellidays se Ah set off wi' Sarah on't Monday mwornin.

As we war gaahan dooun t'street on t'way ta t'Skeal Ah spied Uncle Joe on t'uder side o' t'rwoad.

"Leeuk! Sarah," Ah sed, "theer's Uncle Joe across theer." she sed "Fadther, if Uncle Joe wad cum ta uz—ther wad be *Fower* on us." Ah cuddn't figger that out but she's sek a sharp-un Ah sed "we'll fetch him ower an see". Ah waved Joe across an wen he com Ah coountit up, tell't him what Sarah hed sed, but *he* couldnt mak us inta *Fower* owther (it was mebbe' t'wrang end o't day fer him ta deeah thattan), seeah off he went leukan fair mazed.

Just than Aunt Mary com in seet ahint Joe an Ah ses "Sarah, yonder's Auntie Mary." "Fadther," she sed ag-ain, "if Auntie Mary wad cum *here* ther wad be *Fower* on UZ."

"We'll fetch her here," Ah ses. She com ower an Ah telt her what t'laal-un hed sed, coountit up agen, but nowther me ner Aunt Mary cud mak us inta *Fower*, an away she went leeukan gay puzzelt.

It *was* a "Capper."

"Let's be gittan on ta t'Skeal," ah ses.

Just ta show t'Mistress hoo sharp she was Ah sed "Noo Sarah, spell 'PIE' fer t'Mistress." "PI—PI" sherp es leetnin.

Than Ah telt' lady aboot t'Capper Sarah hed settan us on t'way ta t'Skeal.

T'Mistress was varra good at "sums" an she thowt aboot it a lang time, at last she sed "*Can Sarah count up to FIVE?*"

"Aye, she can an O," Ah repliet.

"Coount *FIVE* fer t'Mistress, Sarah."

"*YAN — TWEAH — FOWER — FIVE*," ses she.

"By GOM! She *is* a sharp-un."

NO TIME TO CHUNNER

by ALICE MILLER, of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire.

PART II.

It's th' easiust thing in t' worrld to shak' a bed up! That's wod a lot o' chaps saay as duz nowt unny snooze in um! 'Evvin' coom to t' time o' t' day when mi 'eyd's clutthered up wi' peylin, up un deawn t' th' 'eawse—Ah tek one look at a weeory untidy bed, un promise to doo id a good torrn when Ah've 'ed mi usual upsteeors—winda eenful o' Belthorn; thad scammerin' villige as is plain anuf to bi sin on t' faar away skyline! It's a gret 'eight up, un ther's a goodish view o' Blackpool un t' th' owd Irish briny—soa Ah've bin towd—fro' saartun places in t' locality. In fact, fooak as is blessed wi' keen nooases sweeor thi con sniff t' th' ozone; un one mon—it's said as 'e's a Blegburn tacklur, sticks to id as Belthorn allus meks 'im seasick!

Ah know ther's allus a lot o' wind up theer, e'en on a warm fine day; un wod it's like i' winthur when t' frost geds in t' gait o' t' rantin' winds—well, id ull be a reyt skrikin' symphuny concert in t' chimleys un t' dooar'oyles! But Ah mun ged back to mi fost thowts—th' ocean waves un tides, un a letthur as coom yusthurda' fro' a pal o' mine as used to throw 'is chest eawt wheer Ah wer' consaarned! Aye, An mun answer thad letthur, un a toathri mooar as is waitin' ther torrn . . . . . .

Tansy.

"Send me a root o' thi bitthur-sweet tansy;
Creddled i' ferns, lass, un feathured wi gowd!
Growin' wheer t' wild winds lift t' threes in ther tanthrums;
When t' storms come a-rattlin' deawn t' th' 'illside to t' Fowd!

Ay, monny a day 'ev Ah thraapsed in thy gaardin;
A poor fecklus place then, as meant nowt to me!
Un monny a jibe 'ev Ah flung at thi tansy;
So common to mooast fooak—but precious to thee!

Send me a root, aye, it's tansy Ah'm afthur:
O, dorn'd think as sentimunt's gettun me deawn!
Id ull smell when Ah touch id: it's daft-like, this fancy!
Dust' think id ull grow in this African teawn?"

* * * *

Ten minutes to ten at t' neet, un it's 'Shanks' Pony' afthur mi lecture on "The Word-Magic of Mary Webb." Id wer' a good meetin', wi' a feelin' o' deep list'nin' as tells sich a lot to a speykur! Ah wer' offered a conthraption on wheels to tek me 'ooam; but knowin' Duck'uth 'Ill so weel, Ah thanked t' th' owner verra kindly, but said as t' fresh air ud doo me a peaw'r o' good! Some o' t' th' officials walked t' paart o' t' way up New Loyne wi' me, then left me to Providunce, un thrusted Ah wouldn't bi molested. Molested! Whey, Ah've walked theawsands o' miles sin' Ah begun my pilgrimige i'

Ossy; un t' daark's allus bin friendly, wi' monny a "Good-neet, lass, Good-neet!" waarmin' t' cockles o' mi' 'aart fro' gradely fooak as con teych lastin' lessons i' chivulry!

Ah pass t' shadda'd chaarchyaard, t' chaarch, un t' Canon's hooamplace; thinkin' abeawt thad Yorkshur Bronte counthry "Haworth," wi' id sthrange uncanny atmosphere o' genius. Eawr own Green Haworth is somewheer up yondthur o'er to t' left, clooaked i' daarknus. Bedlam's on thad 'and un o'—quaather neaw thun in t' last century! Duck'uth 'Ill teks a' mi puff, fer it's a stiff nip un a fairly long un; but Ah teks messel time, fer ther's nowt spoilin'! In t' saycrut-like bushes on aythur side o' t' rooad Ah con 'ear chitthury chit-chat fro' t' baards sooartin' thersels eawt fer t' neet. At t' fost bend in t' rooad a rabbut guz scutthurin'—swift as t' wind—like it's skeered to t' deeoth!

Looanlinus un t'daark 'ev a way o' fotchin' t' sky clooaser; un t' teawns, clutthured up wi' smook veils un teeomin' life in t' dayleet, ar' shut-in invisuble worrlds, nobbut picked eawt through ther magicul coloured leets, like precious stooans linkin' t' livin' thracks to t' pendulum o' Time's clock!

On t' levul, Ah stops fer a breeothur, un 'ev a feelin' Ah'm nod bi messel. At this spot Ah allus fancy th' inventur o' t' 'Spinnin' Jenny,' Jimmie Hargreaves un 'is missis ar' peylin' away fer dear life to'rts Red Shell Loyne, escapin' fro' t' th' inflamed 'ooliguns fro' Stan'ill Villige—thad other 'illy place in eawr teawnship! Wod a jorrney id would be in t' th' eighteenth century! Fearsome un tar'ble, wi' clog un fustun intolerunce; un visions o' maarcilus brutul mordthur!

Th' air's shaarp un sweet up 'ere; un ther's a quare sense o' waatchin' een, though nowt stors exceptin' t' "little citizens" o' t' meada's. A kind o' comfortin' comes to me, un Ah know as ev'rything gethured sin Ah wer' a baairn is 'ere! Summat luvly un big as never powfags me! . . . . . .

O'er T' Tops.

T' long loyne o'er t' tops reyt weel Ah know;
Wheer t' thorns un t' wild fleaw'rs wave un grow:
Wheer t' blackbaards pipe fro' t' faarmer's wa,'
On t' windin' rooad to t' th' 'amlut!

When t' day 'es left id waark be'ind;
Mooar looanly-like is t' thrack, Ah find!
But Fancy comes wi' singin' mind,
On t' windin' rooad to t' th' 'amlut!

'Ere saycrut luvvers dawdle late;
A-steylin' Time as wilna wait:
A scuttherin' rabbut geds eawt t' gait
On t' windin' road to t' th' 'amlut!

Black shaddas sprawl a' reawnd mi feet;
Un nowt seems wick wheer t' crossrooads meet!
But glimmerin' yon, Ah spy one leet,
As borrns fer me in t' th' amlut!

T'blackbird as oppuned t' day wi' id luv-jingle 'es fon some quate nest! T' wind—as fratches un snozzles like a peevish 'dhrunk' some neets—'es settled idsel fer a peeoceful doss somewheer! A's still un lapped in a blankut o' silunce!

This room is just one in a mighty worrld! T' sky shows blue-black through t' th' uncorrtuned winda! Nowt moves— exceptin' me wi' mi writin' pappers! Worrd-singin' fro' Douglas Gibson's pen comes soft, like a wee waarm baard.—

"We hear the rustle of your snowy dress;
The breath of music and the theatre's hush."

There some naarcissus in a bowl on t' table. This'll keep me comp'ny till Owd Nod sits on mi een!

Naarcissus.

Into a bowl o' these Ah've spilled sich thowts;
Fer 'auntin' beauty weeors a god-like face:
Naarcissus, aye, yet summat mooar ner fleaw'rs;
Reflectin' in t' wa' glass a luvly grace!

Fer wheer Ah lie lapped in this neet-webbed shawl;
Ah touch thad staar as lifts, yet pains mi breast:
A constant orge as wilna let me be,
Till t' th' 'aart is spent—un shuts id dooar to rest!

PROGRAMME FOR 1957

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10th, with the President of the Society, Sir Harold Parkinson, K.B.E., in the Chair. After the business of the evening has been dealt with, Mr. W. Haas, Esq. M.A., Senior Lecturer in General Linguistics in the University of Manchester will give a paper "On Speaking with an Accent."

On Thursday, May 9th the Society will welcome Miss Bridget Gordon, who will speak it is hoped, on "Some aspects of Norse influences on Northern English."

On Thursday, November 14th, the annual Members' Meeting will be held, at which members will contribute dialect readings of their own work or the work of others and discuss topics of dialect interest.

All meetings will be held in the Arts Building of the University of Manchester and will commence at 7-30 p.m.

SWEET FANCY

by NICHOLAS FREESTON.

Sweet Fancy tha' bin actin' foo'
An' landed me in sich a stoo.
An' tho' thou art mi leet in t' dark
Please keep away when Ah'm ut wark.

Th'owd Gaffer's after me, Ah'm sure.
He's allus bobbin thro' t' shed dooar,
He's in an' eawt like one nooan reyt,
An' Ah'm mucked up—Ah corn'd keep straight.

Tha knows what happen'd t' other day.
Tha coom an' took me miles away.
When Ah geet back, aboon o t' din,
Ah yerd his,—"Neaw then, wheerstaa bin?"

Ah couldna tell him, thee an' me
Hed climbed to t' top o' some tall tree,
An' nestled near a singin' bird
To miss not one enchanted word.

Ner could Ah say, when t' day were done
Deawn t' sleepy stars wey swiftly run,
An' feawnd behind yon hills so owd,
Wheer Phoebus hides, fer t' neet, his gowd.

Sweet Fancy! coom in leisure hours.
An' leead me to Elysian bowers,
Wheer blooms that never fade are feawnd
An' ev'ry bird sings o t' year reawnd.

Ah wouldna, wouldna part wi' thee
Fer ev'ry pearl browt eawt o' t' sea.
Thou art mi luvly leet in t' dark—
But keep away when Ah'm ut wark!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1957 become due on 1st January, 1957. They should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Leslie Procter, Certified Accountant, Willow House, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancs. The subscription for libraries is 5s.; for individual members the minimum is 2s. 6d. The Life Membership subscription is £5 5s. 0d.

MY NORTH COUNTRIE

by WILFRED PICKLES.

308 p.m. George Allen and Unwin Ltd., 1955. 16s.

Wilfred Pickles is well qualified to be an anthologist of North Country literature. He has a remarkable gift for establishing sympathy of the most diverse habits and origins, while remaining true to his own northern background and traditions. In addition to his uncanny faculty for knowing what the public wants, which might have produced a popular anthology without producing a good one, Mr. Pickles also possesses a sensitive taste for literature of all kinds. Readers who heard his poetry readings on the B.B.C. Home Service some years ago will have no doubts about his fitness to make a choice of literature of any kind.

This book is described on the dust cover as 'An Anthology of Poetry and Prose of the Northern Counties'. This means exactly what it says. *My Northern Countrie* is not solely a dialect anthology, and those whose interest lie solely in the dialect literature of the North Country may wish that some of the pieces in Standard English had been replaced by others in dialect. However, the editor's intention, as he tells us in the foreward, has been to capture the spirit of the North as revealed in its literature. This means that, although most of the book consists of pieces in dialect, the primary interest is rather wider. On the whole the contributions in Standard English, from J. B. Priestley, Phyllis Bentley, and others, enhance the attractiveness of the book, because their authors are able to see the North partially from the outsider's point of view and attempt to realise its appeal to him.

The scope of the selection is very wide, and ranges from Cumberland and Tyneside to Cheshire, Derbyshire, and the Isle of Man. There are occasions on which one might be tempted to argue the merits of a particular selection, but few, if any, of the better known pieces have been omitted. Naturally Wilfred Pickles is strongest in his own native Yorkshire, although the proportion of pieces in Standard English is rather higher than one might expect from a county so rich in dialect literature. One would have liked to see the version of the Midgeley Pace Egg play in dialect, even at the risk of some artificiality in 'translation'; and there will be some back slapping and guffawing amongst Lancashire readers when they find that their own Clifford Heyworth has been placed amongst the Yorkshire poets. Possibly Mr. Pickles is exacting some form of compensation for having to place the Yorkshireman Sam Laycock (who, incidentally, wrote his poems in Cheshire) amongst the Lancashire poets. However, we can forgive him a great deal for his decision to include John Hartley's hilarious 'Th' Hoil-i' th'-'Hill Statty' in the Yorkshire selection

The collection of Lancashire pieces is excellent from every point of view. In poetry it contains the best of Waugh, Wrigley, Fitton, and the cosmopolitan Laycock, alongside the modern poets Alice Miller and Nicholas Freeston, while the prose contains an example of T. Thompson at his best. The only notable absentees from this selection are Ben Brierley and John Collier, and perhaps one could wish that room had been found for some of the prose of Ammon Wrigley—if not for 'Donty's Supperin' Do' then for some other piece which would show Wrigley at his most vigorous.

The Tyneside and Cumberland selections might seem to be deficient in prose writings, although those members who have heard Doctor Blench lecture on the literature of Tyneside will remember that, on the whole, song is more popular than prose, in the North East at any rate. It would have been pleasing, however, to see some of those prose pieces which have appeared in North Eastern newspapers from time to time and which have given so much pleasure to members when read by Dr. Blench at our open meetings. Still, there is a fine collection of songs—'Cushie Butterfield' 'Blaydon Races', and 'The Lambton Worm'—although one sorely misses 'Elsie Marlie'.

Mr. Pickles ends his anthology with a selection of Northern anecdotes and sayings, which are skillfully chosen to illustrate that quality of wit which belongs specially to the Northern mind. One's final impression of this anthology is one of amazement that so much could have been crowded into three hundred or so pages, and of gratitude that it should have been attempted. By compiling this anthology Wilfred Pickles will have won for himself, and the North, a large number of friends.

G.B.

POEMS BY NICHOLAS AND CAROLE FREESTON

26 pp. Privately printed and published by the authors, 1955. 3s 6d. postage paid.

Many of us are pleased to see that poetry in the Lancashire dialect is flourishing at the present time. Obstacles to the composition of dialect poetry are probably greater at present than they have ever been. Writing dialect poetry is not merely a question of translating our thoughts into a different language; it implies a difference of thought as well as speech. Consequently the dialect poet is faced with a constant struggle to keep aloof from the flood of Standard English with which his ears are assailed nowadays. Many fail to achieve this 'purity' and produce an artificial kind of poetry which is often modelled, not only in thought but in vocabulary, upon Standard English. Perhaps, of all recent Lancashire poets, the late Ammon Wrigley understood this best. He is reputed in his later life to have refused to attend a dinner in his honour—a Standard English

occasion— on the grounds that he was not going to start wearing a collar—a Standard English institution—at his time of life.

Nicholas Freeston is, like the late Sam Laycock, a 'foreigner'. He was born in Kendal in 1907, but moved to Lancashire by the time he was six years old, and before he had had a chance to be corrupted by the speech of aliens. Mr. Freeston has solved the problem of Standard English influence in a way which has the sanction of genius in the person of Robert Burns; he has composed his poetry both in dialect and in Standard English. The only drawback to such a remedy is that it is apparently impossible, as Burns must have discovered, to write equally well both in Standard English and in dialect.

If the present selection of Mr. Freeston's poems, which contains some of his best, may be allowed to speak for itself, his chief talent is for dialect poetry. Two of the dialect poems printed were awarded the "Scholes" Cup of the Lancashire Authors' Association, and many of the other dialect poems are of equally high standard. Mr. Freeston's poems in Standard English, while highly competent, do not attain the same distinction. Indeed his reputation as a dialect poet points to the same conclusion. It is to be hoped that his work in the dialect will continue to develop, possibly taking in other classes of poetry, for his present output is mostly lyrical. It would be interesting to see what he would make of a Lancashire legend of the kind which Dorothy Una Ratcliffe has used for her 'Ballad of the White Dog'.

With the poems of Nicholas Freeston are printed five poems by his daughter Carole, written when she was thirteen years old, which show a remarkable maturity and promise well for the future.

G.B.

HOLIDAY LANCASHIRE

SYDNEY MOORHOUSE.

Illustrated. 227 pp. Robert Hale Ltd., 1956. 18s.

Lancashire shows many sides to the world, but perhaps no aspect of the county is so well known as that shown by the portion of the Lancashire seaboard which stretches from Southport to Morecambe Bay, which the author of this book has aptly entitled 'Holiday Lancashire'.

Holiday Lancashire is known to holiday makers from all parts of Britain, and especially to Lancastrians. There must be few parts of Britain which enjoy such popularity. It has been the task of Mr. Moorhouse to trace the development of this coastline from a set of sparsely populated fishing villages in the eighteenth century to its present condition as a thriving purveyor of entertainment all the year round. The story of such a phenomenal development is one which

will be of interest to many of the people who are acquainted with the Lancashire coastline in its present state, and Mr. Moorhouse has some interesting chapters on the growth of the great seaside towns. It is strange to consider that in 1809 Southport was spoken of as a developing fishing port, or that in the middle of the eighteenth century Blackpool was just a collection of fishermen's huts built on the edge of the peaty morass which gave the place its name. The story of this change is a great and interesting chapter in the social history of our country during the last two hundred years, and Mr. Moorhouse has told it with an affection which springs from long acquaintance with his subject.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that one who is so obviously fitted to deal with this subject should fail to do it complete justice. One feels that too much time has been spent over such matters as the development of local industry, which has no connection with the holiday trade, or over descriptions of Wakes Weeks. Mr. Moorhouse's painstaking descriptions of the holiday season at each town will convey little that is new to a reading public which knows the Lancashire coast intimately through personal visits, and the media of cinema, television and press. It is true of course that, to some extent, the charm of the Lancashire coast was, and still is, bound up with local trades—the fishing trawlers at Fleetwood or the shrimping at Morecambe—but it is doubtful if one holiday maker in ten is aware of the agricultural background of the district or the ramifications of light industry, and even more doubtful if these things have much connection with the holiday side of things.

One also feels at times that the author is not objective enough in his approach. A tone of universal praise is hardly adequate to describe the methods and the motives through which the founders of Blackpool, Southport, Fleetwood, and Morecambe have created the special character and appeal of their respective resorts, although here perhaps one should be allowed to plead Mr. Moorhouse's great affection for the Lancashire coastline which makes him partial.

If there are adverse criticisms of the book they are perhaps the lot of every pioneer, for that is what Mr. Moorhouse truly is. His book is often exciting and moving, especially when he speaks of the wrecks, storms, mysterious movements of the coastline, and the gay and boisterous holiday makers of the last century. It is an additional merit of the book that it is illustrated by some beautiful photographs of Holiday Lancashire at its most characteristic.

G.B.

THE CURIOUS TRAVELLER LANCASTER TO LAKELAND

JESSICA LOFTHOUSE.

Illustrated. 224 pp. Robert Hale Ltd., 1956. 18s.

At the moment there seems to be a vogue in studies of the eighteenth century mode of travel in Northern England. Miss Lofthouse has already published one account of her journeys over the routes of eighteenth century travellers in Lakeland, and we have also the excellent account of the eighteenth century by Norman Nicholson. Sydney Moorhouse mentions the eighteenth century traveller in his book on Holiday Lancashire.

Possibly this marks a new approach to the exploration of Lakeland. Previously we have been content with the mountains and the lakes and have asked for nothing more; but now our interests seem to demand that we shall be told something of the background of history, custom, and legend to the mountains and lakes amongst which we spend our holidays. If this is indeed a new trend it may prove to be one for which the dialect enthusiast will be grateful.

Of one thing we may be certain; that the approach of the eighteenth century traveller was both physically and mentally different from our own. The absence of good land routes and the hazardous approach by Morecambe Bay made his journey into the kind of adventure which it is hard to parallel on a twentieth century holiday. Consequently, when Miss Lofthouse sets to follow the routes of Father West, John Lucas, James Stockdale and other eighteenth century travellers she soon takes us into unfamiliar and delightful country.

The first 'curious travellers' were no haphazard tourists but careful observers who noted everything around them, and who studied the landscape with a view to finding the best times of the year or the best 'stations' for viewing the Lakeland scene. Miss Lofthouse has some of the same careful quality in her approach to the country through which she travels, although she applies her attention as much to the people as to the countryside. She gives many accounts of legends, traditional occupations, sayings, and customs—mussel gathering on the Leven Sands, the drowned village of Urswick, old rhymes like that on 'Blawith poor people'—mostly told to her by old people with whom she has made friends on her holidays.

As on her previous journeys Miss Lofthouse has adopted simple and inexpensive modes of travel, on foot or by local bus, and her sketchbook has always travelled with her, with the result that the book is full of sketches which tell one as much of the author's feeings for the countryside as the paintings of the eighteenth century told of the 'picturesque' attitude to the Lakes. Like all sincerely written books of travel this book tells us a great deal about its author whose feelings about Lakeland are shared by a wide public, which will be glad to know of this latest addition to her works.

G.B.

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